



**KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

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Governor

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Thomas D. Layzell
President

March 31, 2006

Mr. Michael Branigan
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
The Wannamaker Building
Suite 515, 100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Dear Mr. Branigan:

This letter addresses the status of the four commitments in Kentucky's Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that were identified as unresolved in the report submitted to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) April 28, 2005. I believe that the Commonwealth has now addressed each of the concerns outlined in our most recent communication regarding the partnership agreement. A status update follows.

Renovation of Kentucky State University's Young Hall Dormitory: In November 2005, the OCR amended the Partnership Agreement to allow KSU to construct new housing units rather than renovate Young Hall dormitory, and agreed that this new project would satisfy the commitment. Authorization and funding for this project was included in House Bill 267 that was enacted by the 2005 Kentucky General Assembly and signed by the Governor. Included in HB 267, page 174, line 18, is authority for Kentucky State University and the Commonwealth to jointly implement a project to renovate Young Hall dormitory. Funding for this project is \$5,735,000 in state bonds, \$4,547,000 in university revenue bonds, and \$396,000 in university cash. The total project authority is \$10,678,000. KSU began the process to implement the project April 27, 2005.

Renovation of KSU's Hathaway Hall: On November 1, 2005 the Council recommended to the Governor, and he to the Kentucky General Assembly that an additional \$4.9 million be authorized to complete phase III of the renovation of Hathaway Hall. While the 2006-08 Biennial Budget has not yet been adopted by the General Assembly we are confident that the project authorization will be included. The 2005 General Assembly included funds in HB 267, page 174, line 16, for KSU to implement phase II of the project to renovate the Hathaway Hall faculty offices and classroom building. Funding for this project is \$7,400,000 in state bonds. Total project authority is \$11,196,000. Phase I of the project was authorized and funded at \$3,796,000 in state bonds by the 2000 session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

Final Inspection of KSU Facilities by the OCR: On November 16, 2005, the staffs of the Office for Civil Rights, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and Kentucky State University conducted a review of Kentucky State University's facilities as part of the OCR final review of the status of The Partnership.

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April 5, 2006

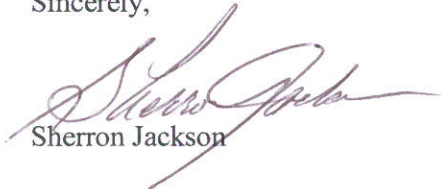
Renovation of KSU's Carver Hall: This project is complete.

KSU Student Performance on PRAXIS II: The Partnership calls for the Commonwealth and KSU to work collaboratively to assist KSU students to pass the certification test at the average performance level of education students in programs at other Kentucky institutions. KSU reported that 100 percent of the students in the 2002-03 and 2003-04 cohorts passed the PRAXIS II assessment. As reported in April 2005, the performance of KSU students, as reported by KSU, is above the statewide average of Kentucky institutions.

Based on the data presented in the January 2003 report, the January and April 2005 updates, and the additional information contained herein, we believe the commitments outlined in the 2000-02 Partnership Agreement between the U.S. Department of Education, the Office for Civil Rights, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky have been fulfilled. We look forward to receiving your response to our assessment.

If you need additional information, please call me at (502) 573-1555.

Sincerely,



Sherron Jackson

cc: Thomas Layzell
Walter Baker